

JAPAN DETERMINED ON 'SPECIAL RIGHTS' STAND

Continued from First Page.

reverence for their Mikado, who is viewed as the living symbol of all of these.

Even the handful of intellectuals groping for a new order of civilization and modern progress admit the force of the militaristic psychology and the logic of the arguments behind it. They further concede the power of the Genro and Imperial family groups co-opting with it to override all resistance from the politicians and small element among the people who predict only disaster as the inevitable result of a reactionary policy.

With the dominant influences the first law of nature is self protection. The leaders of this cult reason that it will be far better for them to invite a war with a foreign power than an upheaval inspired by the growth of democratic sentiment at home. In the estimation of these old leaders a war of "defence," based on national pride and traditions, would solidify and perpetuate the empire, while an admission of guilt and surrender of territorial and economic advantages would invite a reputation at the hands of their own people.

These are some of the reasons that underlie and inspire the skillfully and subtly executed plans to be prepared by 1924 to cope with any emergency provoked by outside influence, regardless of the conclusions of the Washington conference. Every well informed foreign observer reporting to his home Government honestly believes that while the envoys of the Mikado's Government are proclaiming the peaceful ambitions of it at Washington the General Staff will be preparing at home for contingencies that may finally result in war. They are divided in opinion as to the probability of such contingencies, but there is none among them who does not believe that Japan will be prepared.

Talismanic Figure.

The figure "4" possesses talismanic significance in the estimation of the Japanese militarists. In 1894 the empire had built up a war machine modeled on British and German systems, which it deemed fully capable of inaugurating the first phase of its ambition for expansion and power. The Government seized upon an ancient dispute with China to throw its splendidly organized land and sea units against the sluggish and badly manned Chinese military establishment. The one-sided conflict was attended by brilliant and amazing success for Japan. The victory not only gave it a place in the international scene, but added to both its territorial holdings and prestige disputed by Russia alone.

That dispute and the well learned lessons of the war with China encouraged Japan to further its encroachment of Russia in Asia. The result of the conflict of 1904 was even more astounding than that with China ten years before. Within fourteen months the little brown land warriors and sea fighters of the Mikado compelled Russia to sue for peace. The fruits of the victory were of such tremendous importance that Japan at once became the supreme power in the Far East and began to reach out for new economic and political worlds to conquer.

Even Great Britain recognized the Japanese claims of "special privileges" in the Orient and found it expedient to negotiate an alliance that guaranteed the territorial integrity of both. Since then the Asiatic policies of Great Britain have run hand in hand and never conflicted. Each has provided protection to the interests of the other. In 1914 the Japanese armies and navy stormed and conquered the province of Shantung, which Germany had plucked out of China, thereby reducing the foreign holders of Asiatic real estate to four—Great Britain, Japan, France and Portugal, the interests of the latter (Macao) being negligible. The three brilliant successes of Japan in 1894, 1904 and 1914 transformed it from a cautious and agreeable neighbor to an arrogant and rapacious one.

Hand on Siberia.

Nor did Japan stop at China. The General Staff, perceiving an opportunity for further expanding the influence of Japan in Asia, laid menacing hands on Siberia which carried with it virtual economic control and dominion over 1,500 miles of Asia fronting on the Pacific.

And now 1924 is just ahead. Japan is industriously preparing to keep and defend all that she has won with her armies and navy and political intrigue. Her chief dependence, of course, is on one of the most efficient military machines on the globe; her next on her economic independence. I do not believe there is a single man of influence in Japan who will admit that his country is ambitious to assume the role of aggressor against the United States or any other important Power. But I am quite convinced that every one of these men is supremely confident that his country will resist any attempt, no matter how powerfully asserted and supported, to compel it to relinquish the advantages she won prior to 1914 in China, in Korea, in Manchuria and in Mongolia.

They are absolutely certain that the people of the empire will rally to her support without serious division as to the wisdom or expediency of such a move.

There is scarcely any doubt that Japan will redeem her promises to restore Shantung to China—a Shantung made more Japanese in seven years than Chinese in its economic aspects, with every material ambition as good as accomplished. There is scarcely less doubt that Japan will relax her stranglehold on the throat of Siberia—when the Big Business groups of Japan have secured a permanent foothold there, now almost assured.

The Japanese will make these concessions to universal demand and on the advice of her European Allies. The advantages she has gained in Manchuria and Mongolia will be difficult to destroy, because these were obtained by direct concession from

China and comparatively peaceful and legal processes.

Japanese Official View.

I have the very distinct impression, after talking with men who are in position to reflect the Japanese official state of mind, that the controlling element in the Government is not really apprehensive that the advantages won on the Asiatic mainland will be seriously abridged or otherwise adversely affected by the deliberations and conclusions of the Washington conference. A word of justification, a plausible explanation and pledges to make redress where conditions call for such a course "will suffice to prevent outside meddling," according to the Japanese unofficial view.

Any departure from the diplomatic custom of excepting "facts accomplished" will, it is held at Tokio, precipitate turmoil and revive controversy and agitation over matters of very vital concern to both Great Britain and France in Asia. Underlying every assertion and argument advanced by the politicians in Japan is the deep rooted apprehension that while their country may prevent any raking up of past undertakings, the Washington conference is nevertheless likely to impose conditions that will not only curb Japanese ambitions for further expansion but destroy the prestige and authority of the Mikado's Government among those people it has disciplined to the point of subservience.

In other words it is the official view that the greatest menace threatening Japanese interests in the Far East lies in the prospective policy of the United States in the Pacific Ocean rather than in the possible consequences of the accomplished policies of Japan.

When Japanese officials, politicians and publicists talk of the "sphere of influence" of Japan in the Far East what they really mean is the Pacific Ocean. The general staff of Japan is not worrying very much over Siberia, Siberia, Korea, Sachalin and Kamchatka. But the general staff of Japan is very much concerned over Guam, the Philippines and Hawaii and the assignment by the United States of its most important sea units to Pacific waters.

Resented by Japan.

The "new American policy" as it is styled at Tokio, is deeply resented by Japan as the first serious potential blow threatening its Asiatic ambitions. The more candid of the statesman, business men and publicists with whom I talked during the seven weeks I spent in the Island Kingdom were most inquisitive regarding the "hidden significance of the new American policy."

The question most frequently asked was: "Why should the United States suddenly decide to fortify Guam, the Philippines and Hawaii, send its major ships to the Pacific and assert an illegal right to Yap, the key to the Pacific communications, if she is not contemplating a departure from her policy of national isolation and is not seeking territorial and trade advantages in the Far East, which recourse means China?" The Japanese position may be expressed in this way:

1. Japan by reason of propinquity, racial psychology and experience holds

a more logical and comprehensive view of the needs of Asia and is in a better position to supply them than any other country in the world.

2. China, like Japan, is a "yellow man's country," and will finally cast her lot with "her own kind" in resisting the encroachments of the white race, which has turned a cold shoulder to both.

3. Japan has contributed more to the opening up and development of Asia than the United States and is therefore entitled to special privileges.

4. The ambitions of Japan are based on racial psychology and would prove beneficial to all the peoples of Asia if the United States and other countries would keep their hands off.

5. Japan cannot but regard with suspicion and distrust the pretensions of any "white country" and interpret the policies of them as prejudicial to the political, economic, religious and racial interests and her "yellow neighbors" despite differences in "local policies and ambitions."

Views of Japanese Banker.

I discussed with many Government officials and business men in Japan every phase of the potential issues with which the Washington conference may be called on to deal.

"We feel," said one of the leading merchants of Osaka, "that this is our end of the world. We believe that we should be helped rather than hindered in our efforts to work out our own destiny and that of the subdivision of the world's population to which we belong. You have shown that you do not want us for associates and companions. Your pretension of friendship for China is open to question. You do not want the Chinese among you, but you encourage them to quarrel with us, whom you also do not want. Why? The Chinese and the Japanese people are very much alike and in the end will be together against a common enemy."

"So don't go away from Japan with the impression that the peace loving people among you have moved and of whom you've asked questions regard the new American policy as friendly, no matter what the timid politicians say. Don't go with the idea that we do not know our rights and what is best for us or that we will submissively turn the other cheek if subjected to injustice. The Japanese people want peace more than they want anything else in the world, but we want an honorable and just peace, and we will have no other kind."

It is a deserved tribute to the efficiency of the General Staff that no element to the successful conduct of a "defensive" war has been overlooked during the last year or two. The navy has been elevated to a high plane of efficiency. Naval experts tell me there is none better, type for type, in actual fitness anywhere on the globe. The Japanese army is "always ready." Military observers tell me that Japan can put an army of three million in the field within five months.

Japan has called to her aid the best materials and models obtainable everywhere. Her agents, students and tourists in foreign lands are constantly supplying information relating to every sort of war material. The agencies of the Government working under the direction of the General Staff are developing the iron mines in Manchuria, building new steel plants, encouraging the establishment of machine shops, constructing an elaborate system of tankage and godowns (warehouses) at strategic points on

Japan's Load of Taxes

IN to-morrow's article Mr. Seibold will show the drift of sentiment in Japan in regard to taxation and military expenditures. The conclusions reached are based on the views of many Japanese leaders in politics, journalism and business, as well as foreigners engaged in various lines of industry in Japan.

the mainland and in Corea Karfuta (Saghalien) and in Formosa.

Hydroelectric Plant.

On the Tia Wan, in the Formosa group, Japan is building one of the most powerful hydroelectric plants in the world, ostensibly for commercial purposes, but with a capacity of 180,000 horsepower, whereas 30,000 would be adequate for such needs, according to competent engineers. The obvious purpose of such a mammoth enterprise is the manufacture of nitrates and chemicals, gases and other destructive elements employed in the making of munitions. Incidentally, the engineers sent from America to supervise the construction of the Tia Wan plant were not permitted to go there from Japan proper, but were requested to turn their plans over to the Government engineers assigned to the work. At Aiko, also in the Formosa group, the Government is constructing a vast aviation field and workshop, where the most modern types of aircraft can be turned out and aviators trained for war service beyond the ken of prying eyes. British instructors have been training officers, fliers and mechanics at fields in Japan proper for several months. Visitors are not encouraged at the Aiko plant.

The domestic coal supply of the country renders it independent of foreign sources, and for ordinary purposes there is even enough to permit a limited export. It is of the bituminous quality, suitable for manufacturing and marine purposes.

Very recently Japan contracted through domestic firms for \$5,270,000 worth of Diesel engines and is continuing her purchases. The naval programme, over which there has been much controversy based on little actual information, explains to some extent the Diesel orders. The naval plans contemplate the use of them in equipping the largest submarines ever built. According to excellent information the new types are to be built from plans made by Germany (but never carried out) for the construction of undersea boats far superior to any she used in the world war.

A thorough checking up of naval units is in progress while I am preparing to leave Japan. In the stretch of waters between Japan proper and Corea and the China Sea there are assembled more than seventy fighting ships of the empire to participate in the annual manoeuvres. The programme, which is to engage the offensive and defensive capabilities of the imperial navy under conditions as closely approximating those of war as possible.

The Mikado's fleets were divided into an attacking and defending force, designed to develop the strong and weak points of his navy, the test being the sealing up of the Sea of Japan against an enemy and making it ab-

solutely impossible for an attacking force to approach the Asiatic mainland north of the British possessions.

The selection of the Japan Sea for the manoeuvres was not without significance to the vigilant foreign observers. Commanding the Korean peninsula and the Asiatic mainland to the west of the China Sea, the test of shutting off both from foreign invaders would be, in the judgment of capable naval observers, comparatively easy. The northern and southern entrances could be adequately closed with mines and submarine protection. As Japan's eastern coastline, fronting on the Pacific, is probably as well fortified as any similar stretch of land in the world the difficulties that would confront an invading force are clear to military strategists.

Her Bases of Supplies.

With little to fear from either the east or the west and adequately fortified naval bases (Bonin Islands) in the Pacific, observers can see that on both land and sea Japan would enjoy a decided advantage—temporarily, at least—in resisting an attack from outside. With Corea and northern China in her pocket she could draw on the resources of both for supplies and perhaps men through a system of communication that would be most difficult to destroy.

Every authority with whom I have talked agreed that Japan would have a decided advantage at the outset of a "defensive war" which, in their judgment, is the only sort she would invite. Her very isolation and ability to "live on herself" would enable her to provoke an adversary into assuming the aggressive.

The experts are of one mind in the opinion that for physical and political reasons the whole plan of permanent preparedness which Japan is secretly inaugurating eliminates any probability of resort by her to an "offensive" war. They are most positive that Japan "would provoke the other fellow to come to her, and that 'beyond little unprofitable raiding in the Pacific she could not conduct an offensive war for six months."

The leading politicians frankly admit that "an offensive war" would not prove popular with the people, would probably cost Japan the Friendship and support of England and France, topple over the imperial dynasty, let loose the vengeful Chinese and Coreans, destroy Japan's power in the Far East and reduce her to the status of a second rate Power.

\$200,000 GIVEN IN WILL FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Hiram F. Mills Leaves Sum to Harvard for That Purpose.

PLYMOUTH, Mass., Oct. 10.—A bequest of \$200,000 to Harvard University, the income to be devoted to the investigation of the origin and cure of cancer, is contained in the will of Hiram F. Mills of Hingham, filed for probate here today.

After numerous other public and private bequests, including \$10,000 each to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the residue of the estate is to be used to establish a fund for charitable purposes among mill workers in Lawrence and Lowell.

Mr. Mills, a noted hydraulic engineer, spent a large part of his life developing the water power of the Merrimack River, especially at Lawrence and Lowell.

HYLAN DUPE OF RING, IS CHARGE BY GILROY

City Affairs Were Neglected in Quest for Votes, As—serts Candidate.

CALLS MAYOR INSINCERE

Major Curran in Town Hall Praises Miss Boswell for Fight for Office.

Vincent Gilroy, Republican-Coalition candidate for President of the Board of Aldermen, rolled up his sleeves yesterday and sailed into the Hyland administration at a mass meeting under the auspices of the New York County Club Women's Campaign Committee at the Town Hall. He said:

"Mayor Hyland began his campaign for reelection the day he was inducted into office, and instead of devoting his attention to the administration of city affairs he has attempted to distort everything in an effort to gain votes. The money of the taxpayers has been used to further this campaign, and on public recreation piers, in streets which have been closed to traffic to make playgrounds for children and in the public parks we see signs bearing his name which he has erected. These piers, streets and parks were here long before any of the Hyland family came to New York."

"He is insincere in every appeal he makes, especially in regard to traction affairs. He is not seeking the good of the people, but to keep the traction issue alive for his own political purposes. The five cent fare is no longer an issue because Henry Curran has killed it. If the administration could have a five cent fare guaranteed to-morrow they would not accept it because of their wish to make it an issue."

"Hyland is surrounded with a clique of crooked politicians who are using him for profit. Corruption in the Dock Department, Department of Markets and Police Department has been brought out in the Meyer investigation. His subordinates are engaged in every form of corruption. They were put there by Murphy, and Hyland accepts Murphy's dictation because he knows that if he didn't he would be broken as Sulzer was broken."

Major Curran, also at the meeting, spoke briefly. He announced he would devote the week to bringing out as near a full registration as possible and that, beginning next week, he would proceed to a discussion of all of the issues of the campaign. He paid a tribute to Helen Varick Boswell, candidate for Register, in whose behalf the meeting was arranged. Miss Boswell said the Tammany leaders were "diverting in contemplation of what the women of the city are going to do to them."

W. J. FAWCETT PROMOTED.

William J. Fawcett, a Democrat residing in The Bronx, assistant clerk and bookkeeper in the Law Department's condemnation proceedings office, was promoted yesterday to succeed the late William H. Jasper at an annual salary of \$4,000.

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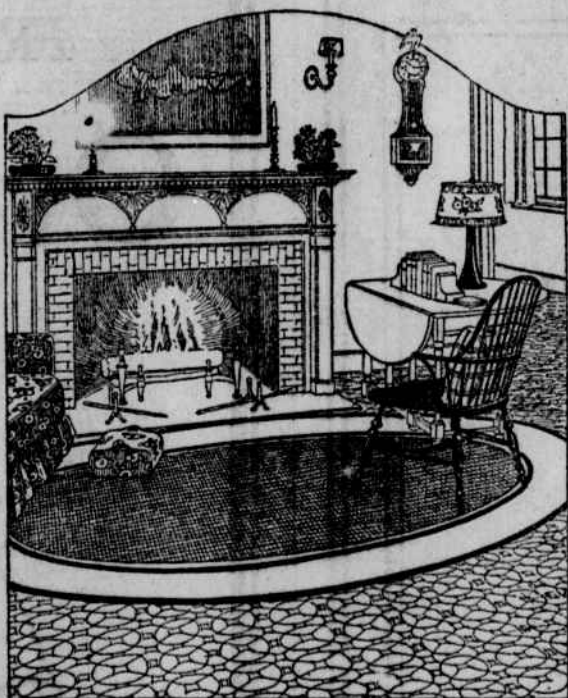
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